



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-4688 FAX: 603-271-4912 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

John A. Stephen
Commissioner

Dear License Plus Applicant:

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is delighted that your early care and education program will be participating in the voluntary Licensed Plus Quality Rating System. Licensed Plus was developed because programs throughout our State asked the Department to recognize those licensed programs in New Hampshire that demonstrate research-based evidence of quality above and beyond the Bureau of Child Care Licensing Rules. We heard you and agreed with you. Indeed, quality care for children is a fundamental value held by me and the Department's staff. We are pleased to offer a meaningful quality rating system that is not overly cumbersome in its administration or its application process.

The Licensed Plus Quality Rating System was designed with the following goals:

- Increase access for low-income families to quality early care and education programs;
- Increase incentives for early care and education programs to improve quality, with a primary focus on programs serving scholarship-eligible families; and
- Provide helpful, accessible information to consumers.

The Licensed Plus Quality Rating System is a new, visible system for documenting standards of quality that will raise the awareness of providers, families and communities about the indicators of quality care. With the implementation of Licensed Plus, the Department will recognize 3 levels of regulated child care, as follows:

LEVEL 1	Licensed
LEVEL 2	Licensed Plus
LEVEL 3	Accreditation by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or the National After School Association (NAA)

We believe you will find value in becoming a Licensed Plus program as will the families you currently serve and those you will serve in the future. Also, the communities you serve will better understand how your program addresses quality. When you become Licensed Plus, you will receive a certificate to post and your program will be listed as such at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, including on our website. In addition, if your program is certified with the Department to serve children in protective or preventive care, you are eligible to receive a recognition award of either \$250 or \$500 and a cash award of 5% of all payments received in the previous calendar year for DCYF, Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3, combined.

In this packet, you will find the following materials:

1. Licensed Plus Quality Rating System Standards;
2. Licensed Plus Quality Rating System Application;
3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Licensed Plus Quality Rating System; and

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4. A List of Resources to help you comply with Licensed Plus Standards.

Thank you for applying, and my most sincere thanks for caring for New Hampshire's children. Please do contact your local New Hampshire Resource and Referral Program (see enclosed resource list) or call Sharon Lee, Licensed Plus Program Specialist at 271-4829 or 1-800-271-4829 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

John A. Stephen
Commissioner

Enclosures